

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action mailed 16 February 2011 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 2- 10 are pending in the application. Claim 10 has been amended to indicate that the IEEE 802.11 protocol stack (shown on Fig. 4 and described at page 10, line 16 to page 11, line 2) operates a wireless network and is implemented in a microprocessor. Claim 10 has also been amended to indicate that the device (wireless station) is not a wireless access point.

Regarding the 35 USC § 112 rejection, the IEEE802.11 standard is well known to the skilled in the art and are mentioned in the description of the application. The association process of the IEEE802.11 standard is also well known to the skilled in the art and is also mentioned in the description of the application. A wireless station compliant with the IEEE 802.11 standard is thus clearly defined and well known to the skilled in the art. It is also well known to those skilled in the art that all IEEE802.11 standard versions are based on the same association process. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not indefinite.

Regarding the 35 USC § 103 rejection, the Examiner indicates in page 4 of the Response to Arguments that the 'wireless station' is broad enough to read on a 'wireless access point'. Claim 10 has been amended to indicate that the wireless station is not a wireless access point. Both Meier and Doyle describe a wireless access point but do not describe a wireless station able to connect a centralized wireless network to a plurality of other networks.

On page 4 of the Response to Arguments the Examiner indicates that Doyle discloses, at column 6, lines 19-26, that the non-IEEE802.11 wired devices would appear as wireless stations when the bridge apparatus operates as an access point. This is not what is indicated in Doyle. At column 6, lines 19-26, Doyle indicates that the bridge "provides a transparent interface or bridge between IEEE 802.11 wireless devices 14, and non-IEEE 802.11 wired devices". According to Doyle, "The bridge apparatus 10 can operate as an access point device between an IEEE 802.11 wireless network and a non-IEEE 802.11 wired network 12. Using the IEEE 802.11 protocol with the bridge controller 20, the bridge apparatus 10 provides a transparent interface or

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bridge between IEEE 802.11 wireless devices 14, and non-IEEE 802.11 wired devices,
such as a host computer 12a or a network controller 12b that resides in the non-IEEE
802.11 wired network 12.” The meaning of ‘transparent’ is indicated in column 3, lines
39-52. The transparent function is further indicated in column 3 lines 47-52. Further,
“In this way, a population of wireless devices 14 appears to have a standard connection
to the wired network 12 and can interact with other services and devices on the wired
network 12 without any need for special handling.” This shows that wired and wireless
station communicate through the bridge. This is different from non-IEEE802.11 wired
devices appearing as wireless stations to the access point.

Respectfully submitted,
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